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**CHUCK ROSENBERG, UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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Jim Rybicki  
Public Information Officer  
Phone: (703) 842-4050 Fax: (703) 549-5202  
E-Mail: [usavae.press@usdoj.gov](mailto:usavae.press@usdoj.gov)  
Website: [www.usdoj.gov/usao/vae](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/vae)

## **Virginia Man Sentenced in Military Bid Rigging Scheme**

(Alexandria, VA) - Michael A. Causer, age 45, formerly of King George County, Virginia, was sentenced today to 15 months in federal prison and ordered to pay \$252,000 in restitution in connection with a bid rigging scheme involving the Naval Facilities and Engineering Command at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dahlgren, Virginia. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia; Rod Baldwin, Special Agent in Charge, Naval Criminal Investigative Service; and, Charles J. Cunningham, Special Agent in Charge, FBI Richmond Field Office, made the announcement today after sentencing by United States District Judge Claude M. Hilton.

From the mid 1990s through 2004, Causer was the Utilities Supervisor for the Department of Public Works at the Navy's Dahlgren facility. According to court documents, Causer was the leader in a 2004 bid rigging scheme involving at least two contractors, who sold products and services to the Department of Public Works, based on purchase orders generated by Causer. One of the contractors was Government & Commercial Supply in Manassas, Virginia. In September 2006, Michael A. Thornton, a sales manager for the Manassas company pled guilty to the same offense. Causer's main objective was to direct Dahlgren business to the other contractor, a King George County company owned by a friend. Court documents state that during the last few months of 2004, Causer authorized payments to his friend's company without regard to whether or not the funds were ever earned. Many of the contracts awarded to his friend's company, and improperly paid for in advance, were never performed, resulting in a loss to the United States Navy of at least \$252,000.

In October 2006, Deputy Attorney General Paul J. McNulty announced the formation of a National Procurement Fraud Task Force designed to promote the early detection, identification, prevention and prosecution of procurement fraud associated with the increase in contracting activity for national security and other government programs. The Procurement Fraud Task Force chaired by Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the Criminal Division includes

the FBI, the U.S. Inspectors General community, the U.S. Attorneys office for the Eastern District of Virginia, and others.

The Causer investigation was conducted by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service and the FBI. Assistant United States Attorney Stephen Learned prosecuted the case on behalf of the United States.

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